the Ladder

JUNE

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purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications--this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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COVER BY KELLY

What is 'Responsibility'?

By Florence Conrad

A common criticism of the homosexual is that he is "shirking his duty", "running away from life", - "avoiding life's responsibilities". These phrases of the man in the street have been parallelled by psychiatrists and other students of sex deviation, where they tend to acquire a scientific coloring.

Freud's theory of homosexuality as arrested development, or failure to reach full maturity, seems to provide a natural starting point. "Maturity", though used by Freud in a special way, has always been a value-loaded word, with social implications, and can easily suggest "responsibility". The flight from "responsibility" is considered to be unconscious, but neverthe less real. Frank Caprio's book "Female Homosexuality" contains several examples of this view (quoted with apparent approval). (a) A report of a committee of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (b) states that "overt homosexuality may be an expression of ...inability to accept adult responsibility". Albert Ellis has recently suggested (c) homosexuality as the "easier and less responsible mode of life".

Whether phrased in everyday or scientific language, however, the idea that homosexuality is by its very nature irresponsible remains an expression of the personal and social values of the individual who is speaking. It may reflect the high value society places on maintaining itself through reproducing the species; the fact that marriage and child-rearing involve a burden; the feeling that no one should be "excused" from this burden, and perhaps still other things. In any case, such a view is a premise, not a conclusion of the scientist who holds it. He does not arrive at it as the result of a scientific process; he begins with it. Psychiatrists and other scientists must of course have premises. But premises are open to discussion.

This one seems particularly vulnerable, and one might even

guess that our own society may be moving gradually away from the idea (if it ever really held it) that each and every individual must procreate in order to qualify as "responsible".

"Responsible" behavior in a broader sense would seem to involve more than, and sometimes less than, those, it would seem to call first for a realistic appraisal of one's own personality, assets and liabilities, scope and limits; and second, for a willingness to throw one's energies fully into some socially desirable activity, a family (if well done) may qualify as such an activity, and a basic one, it is not the only one. Nor will it always qualify. It is becoming more and more widely recognized that it does not qualify where the adult has little chance of doing the job well. Particularly in a world of alarming population increase.

There are many ways of shouldering responsibility. One may put one's energies into a job or into some other activity that one believes is worth while. Or one may in his daily dealing with other people act in a way that goes beyond the narrowly personal or selfish. Or one may give continuing help or love to one other person who wants or some regard for the consequences to others....

By this definition not all homosexuals behave responsibly. Nor do all heterosexuals. What matters here is not the exact number of persons who do or do not, but that the definition of "responsibility" be a reasonable one.

But, the psychiatrist may say, "this is too superficial. Even if the homosexual adult is behaving as responsibly as he can within his limits - the limits are still there. We maintain they first arose as an (unconscious) way out of "duty" or "responsibility" as it was once socially defined for him".

Whether this is true in general, or true in some cases or not true, it is not for the layman to decide. Perhaps, as

here stated, it is part of the truth. And if all writers on the subject would draw a clear line between what they are proposing as fact, what as social values, and what as their own moral judgment, there would be far less room for general misinterpretation.

Yet one or two basic questions arise about even this formulation; First, if the homosexual pattern is deeply imbedded at an early age - if homosexuality is the result of a pre-Oedipal conflict, for instance, as many psychiatrists believe, what becomes of this theory? What meaning can it have to talk about the "responsibilities" of the infant?

But perhaps it does have some meaning. Perhaps, as Simone de Beauvoir holds, homosexuality is a "choice" made in given circumstances - and in a sense a continuing choice. The individual has no control over the original circumstances, but he (or she) does make the choice. And earlier choices shape later circumstances....

But what is the nature of this "choice"? Perhaps the child who "selects" the homosexual pattern may, in some cases, be trying to avoid one kind of responsibility. Does that mean that he (or she) wants, consciously or not, to throw off burdens, responsibilities of any kind? Or specifically the kind that have been prescribed for his (her) sex-preferring to assume others of a more congenial kind? This may be ungracious, or even laughable, but that is another matter. What should be noticed is the positive aspect - there is not only a desire to avoid, but a desire to attain something that is not permitted.

It is easy to be sceptical about this; and the prevailing fashion is to stress "flight" or "evasion" as the repressed side of the choice, while dismissing the conscious feeling as mere rationalization. Of course it would be foolish to deny the possibility of what may be unconscious; and there is no need to do so. What is unconvincing, however, is the denial of validity to a conscious feeling, merely because it happens to be conscious; It is not proved, as far as the writer knows, that either aspect necessarily involves the other. Might not "flight" alone exist in some cases, while a protest against ex-

clusion from a congenial role might be involved in others? With perhaps both, or neither, in still other cases?

The choice any individual makes may be inappropriate, unreal, or otherwise undesirable. (Or it may be quite practicable, if only it were socially allowed). That is one thing. But it is only confusing the issue to take for granted that the homosexual, in rebelling against one pattern, wants to throw over all patterns and responsibilities. He may eventually come to that, of course, if given enough help by social attitudes. But social attitudes, and the cultural values they involve, change constantly though slowly; and it may be hoped that ours will continue to grow, as they have in the past, in the direction of a broader permitted choice for the individual. Perhaps then we will no longer find the rigid notion that there is only one kind of "responsibility", inscribed once and for all in the heavens, classified according to sex.

There is nothing original in this line of thought. Writers from Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead, the anthropologists, through Beauvoir have suggested it in some form. The present writer hopes to pursue it further in a later article, with particular regard to women.

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a) E.g. pp. 7-8, 11
b) Report No. 30, Group for Advancement of Psychiatry, New York, N. Y.
c) See THE LADDER, February 1959 p. 10

MY TONGUE IS MUTE

by

J. Lorna Strayer

My tongue is mute,
My pen nearly as inarticulate;
But the volubility of my heart,
Never ceases.

The Gay Party

By Bev Berkeley

Jan put the key in the door of her apartment, swung it open, and closed it quickly behind her. She always liked to get that first moment over with, that moment of feeling the emptiness of her apartment, of knowing that there was no one there and no one coming later. Although she had lived alone now for almost two years, the loneliness was the same. A quick dinner somewhere, then home alone again.

She headed immediately for her bedroom, kicked off her shoes and put on her slippers. Lighting a cigarette, she put on some records, went into the small kitchen and mixed a drink for herself. Then she went back in the living room, sat in the big chair with her feet stretched out, and listened to the music as she looked out the window at the city below. "I'd be a fool to go," she said to herself and ground out her cigarette. "I swore when I was transferred here that I would put gay life behind me and I have. I won't go to that party."

Jan strode into the bedroom and stared at herself in the mirror. She looked critically at the Lesbian she saw reflected there, the strong face, brown from the sun, the short, dark hair and enigmatic grey eyes. She knew she was obvious to other homophiles even though she tried not to be, but evidently she wasn't to her normal friends. They seemed to see her as a successful executive, an intelligent career woman, and she thought of herself that way too as well as the other deeper way. She'd worked hard to be head of the personnel department, and she intended to go higher yet. There could be no hint of homosexuality to ruin her career, not now, not ever.

As she raised her glass to her lips she remembered suddenly how Laurie had held a Martini glass. Closer to the stem than most persons did, held carelessly with her long fingers. Laurie's face when she had had too many Martini's which was almost every night, her eyes slightly out of focus, the sinuous hair, the soft lips. She had been

lucky to have a chance for a transfer, and it had been the smartest thing she had ever done to take it and to break with Laurie. She knew it but sometimes she awoke at night with a hunger for her.

Jan walked back to the living room restlessly. The invitation was there, propped up on her desk. From a Bobbie and Helen inviting her to a party because their mutual friend, Nicky, had written she was living here now. This was a second invitation, and they wouldn't ask her again. Jan wanted to go but she was afraid to, afraid of being caught up in the round of drinking, living for the moment, and disregard for the rest of the world that had been a part of the life she had had with Laurie and their friends.

Perhaps, though, if she promised herself to stay only for a few drinks, if she just sat by herself and watched and listened for awhile. Even to be in the same room with some gay girls for a little while might ease the loneliness she felt, end the masquerade for a few hours.

Suddenly her desire won over her vigilance. Without giving herself time to think further, she washed her face, put on fresh lipstick, combed her hair, put on her shoes and ran from the empty apartment down to her car. She found their apartment house without any trouble, parked and walked slowly, trying to calm herself, up the two flights to the door.

A heavy-set Butch with a friendly face opened the door. "You must be Nicky's friend, Jan. I'm Bobbie. Come on in," she said grinning.

It was an old apartment, but imagination and effort had made it attractive. There were seven or eight girls, mostly in slacks, sitting on chairs or sprawled on the floor. Music was playing, and several couples were dancing in the next room. Bobbie introduced her to her friend, Helen, a thin girl with a dark pony-tail, and to the others, but there were too many to separate most of them into individuals; just a blur of smiling faces and a special excitement in the atmosphere that Jan hadn't felt in too long.

Bobbie mixed her a drink and then someone called her away. Jan headed for the only empty chair. She remebered that the name of the girl who was sitting next to it was Kay, and she was glad that the chair was next to her.

Kay sat quietly, holding a long drink. She was a slender girl with light brown hair and blue eyes, in a blue shirt-waist dress.

"Do you mind if I sit down and talk to you?" Jan asked.

"No. I was hoping you would."

"Have you known Bobbie and Helen long?"

"Yes. Ever since I've been in town. I come to all of their parties."

"I was invited to their last one, but I didn't come, I'm glad I came tonight though".

They looked at each other, and Jan felt a pulse beat in her throat. A flush rose in Kay's cheeks, and she looked down at her drink moving the straw in it and making the ice cubes jostle one another.

Jan offered her a cigarette. When she lit it for her, she noticed that the small flame of the lighter was shaking slightly in her hand. "Relax," she said to herself. "Slow down. It's just because I haven't talked to a gay girl for so long that I think I'm falling for the first one I meet. Remember how it was, the fights, the money spent, the lack of sleep, the feeling of drifting, of going nowhere."

Kay spoke softly. "I'm glad you came tonight. I feel as if we will be friends."

Jan looked into her clear eyes and smiled. "I do too." She sipped her drink. "Tell me about yourself."

I'm a private secretary, and I have a good job in an engineering company. I have an apartment on the other side of town." She glanced at Jan and continued more slowly.

"When I graduated from college and came here a year ago I thought my life would really begin, but except for my job I'm just marking time."

"How do you mean?" Jan asked.

Kay took a deep breath. "I'll be honest with you. Somehow I feel I have to be with you, that there is no need for small talk between us." She hesitated but continued. "I'm lonely, and I'm looking for someone, but it has to be the right kind of person."

After a moment Jan asked. "Have you ever been with the right kind?"

Kay nodded. "My last two years of college. My friend, Marie, couldn't stand the pressure from her family. She was married right after we graduated. I thought I'd never get over it, but I am. She made her decision, and I made mine. I came here to find my kind of life. But," she said, "so far I haven't."

Jan said. "It seems to take a bit of doing to find the kind of life you really want. I'm older than you are, but I still haven't found it. I have a good job, an apartment, a car and a bank account, but it isn't enough. I've been with girls too, but we always broke up. With the last one it was because we didn't want the same things. She wanted laughs; I wanted a real home. I guess that's asking too much in a gay life."

"Why is it?" Kay exclaimed. "I know a couple right here who own their own home and have lived together for fifteen years. I've heard of two other women who have been together for twenty-five years." She clenched her hands around her glass. "I know it isn't easy to find someone and that it's even harder to make a gay marriage work, but it must be possible." she said intensely. "If it isn't, I have nothing left to hope for."

Jan reached over and put her hand on Kay's. "Don't give up hope yet. Not now." They smiled at each other. Then Jan said, "Let's make our apologies to Bobbie and

Helen and leave. I want to talk to you for hours, maybe days."

Jan stood and drew Day up with her. They looked into each other's eyes for a moment, their hands touching lightly, and then they turned and walked toward the door.

A Philosopher's Point of View

Recently Alan Watts, philosopher and minister, who conducts a weekly half-hour program on Radio Station KPFA in Berkeley, California, attempted to answer a question posed by a listener on the subject of homosexuality - what is the threat to society, does it lie in the subconscious, is it biological or philosophical, where does the fear originate, and is it as prevalent in Eastern cultures as it is in the West?

Mr. Watts said he was unable to answer for the attitudes of the Asian peoples, though he felt the phenomenon of homosexuality was not taken as seriously in the East. That homosexuality exists there as well he did not deny, but as he said, "we have no Eastern Kinsey" to prove the point. The East, however, is "not as guilt-ridden about sex in general".

DANGERS OF 'CLASSIFICATION'

Mr. Watts then launched into a discussion of man's dangerous tendency toward "classification" and pointed out that "however many divisions there are in nature, the subdivisions serve as a continuum from the border of each class to the border of the next."

To prove that opposites merge, he cited as an example the northern and southern hemispheres, showing how the two hemispheres merge at the equator. "The division of the species into male and female is very much like the northern and southern hemispheres," he said.

There is an enormous gradation of sexual patterns from the extreme male to the extreme female, Mr. Watts declared. He referred to the "Circle of Sex" worked out by Gavin Arthur as a clock with 12 divisions showing the pater familias or extreme male at 12 o'cock and the mater familias or extreme female at 6 o'clock. The types between the two poles vary in a steady continuum, Mr. Watts pointed out. He felt that the "Circle of Sex" presented a better picture than the two blocks showing the male on one side and the female on the other.

FIXED LINE DOESN'T FIT FACTS

"We have a problem of getting to see the richness in varying categories," Mr. Watts stated. If our categories get upset, we are all at sea. But we must take into consideration individual differences. The fixed line just doesn't fit the facts.

"Of course, there is the point of diminishing returns," Mr. Watts admitted, "for we can't have different rules for all the different people. But I don't see why you can't sympathize or empathize with people different from yourself."

Homosexuality has been cited as a disease or psychological adaptation, Mr. Watts said, "but I don't see why it is necessary to explain these things away. To say that variations in nature are diseases is ridiculous." He went on to show that homosexuality exists in other species of animals and in other cultures.

The fundamental principle of sound therapy should not be one to treat the patient for disease, but to recognize that the individual is living in a society which doesn't accept him and to help him to make some adaption, Mr. Watts said.

"It is society that is wrong - diseased - for not accepting the <u>different</u> individual."

Mr. Watts also noted that the sensitive professions

(Continued on Page 23)

Symphonic Suite (Selections)

SIX POEMS FOR FULL ORCHESTRA - BY MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY

I. PRELUDE IN A MINOR KEY

(HERE WHERE NO ANGELS FELL
WE WATCHED THE WHITE BIRDS, BLOWN STAR-HIGH
AGAINST AN ARROGANT WASTE OF SKY.)

NOW IN THE PROCREANT NIGHT
SHE LIES, TOO YOUNG FOR KISSING; FEY WITH FIRE
BURNT OUT AT HER LIPS;
GIRDLED IN WHITE IMMACULATE DESIRE.

(THE SEA, ROLLING BENEATH US
PUT THUNDER IN THE SALT STING OF HER LIPS
CHILD-SOFT, CHILD STILL;
HOW COULD I KNOW?)

THESE THINGS ARE WHISPERS IN THE SOLEMN SKY
THE FEAR THAT USHERED IN THE SOMBRE DAY
CHASING DELUDED MIDNIGHT AWAY.
THE CHITTERING DAWN-SONGS OF ILLUSION SHORN
AND HIGH BRIGHT NOON MUST LEAVE US STILL FORLORN.

(THE STARS ARE ALL TOO SMALL TO TOUCH HER NOW.)

2. Nocturne for Flutes and Oboe

JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE NOT LONG AGO
WE WERE ONE
AND I WAS TWO.
AT THE EDGE OF CONSCIOUSNESS I WAS AFRAID
THAT I WOULD BE COMPLETELY LOST IN YOU.

JUST FOR A MOMENT, I HAD TO REMEMBER
THAT I WAS ME--
AND NOT A PART OF YOU.
FOOL THAT I WAS AND AM,
NOW I AM ONE AGAIN AND WE ARE TWO.

AND SHAME HAS SENT MY ARROGANCE TO FLIGHT
IN THE IMMEASURABLE SPACES OF THE NIGHT.

4. Aria for Soprano and Strings

ANOTHER WOMAN AND ANOTHER CHILD
SHALL CLIMB THE PATH THAT OUR BRUISED FEET HAVE KNOWN
AND THE BRUISED GRASS REMEMBER HOW WE SMILED.

I WENT COMPANIONED AND CAME FORTH ALONE.

THE FLOWERS I TROD SANK IN A FOUL MORASS,
THE STARS WENT OUT IN RAIN,
A KISS IN TEARS, A WORD OF LOVE IN VAIN.

O PRINCESS OF AN UNFORGOTTEN HOUR
LEAVE HERE THE THREAD UNRAVELLED BY OUR PAIN
(FOR THOSE WHO ONLY CAME TO FIND A FLOWER
AND SUDDEN FACE THE MONSTER-MINOTAUR)
OUR SILVER TEARS MAY REEL THEM SAFE AGAIN.

5. ALLEGRO AGITATO

NOW THE ORDEAL,
RELUCTANCE, RESISTANCE
ALL UNAVAILING
AGAINST THEIR INSISTENCE.

THE VESTAL WATERS
HER INNOCENCE
BORNE IN THE SIEVE
OF SOLEMN DEFENSE.

COLD, AND THE CURIOUS
WHISPERS OF THINGS;
SHE, UNPROTECTED
AGAINST THEIR STINGS.

AND ALL MEN GATHERED
IN THE LORD'S NAME
HONOR AVENGING
VICARIOUS SHAME.

PLEADING AND DIGNIFIED
STANDS SHE ALONE
DARING EACH MAN
TO CAST THE FIRST STONE.

(FIRST PUBLISHED NOVEMBER, 1954, IN "DAY*STAR". REPRINTED BY PERMISSION).

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"WITHOUT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ONLY SOME PUBLIC ISSUES MIGHT BE CANVASSED. WITHOUT IT, THE NATION MIGHT DRIFT TO A PATTERN OF CONFORMITY THAT LOSES ALL RELATION TO THE WORLD AND ITS LARGE AFFAIRS.

"THIS RIGHT, IF IT IS TO BE A VITAL ONE, MUST EXTEND TO THE LOWLIEST, THE SMALLEST, THE MOST DESPISED MINORITY OF ALL."

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

Homosexuals in Uniform

BY BARBARA STEPHENS

THE PEACETIME WORLD WE SWELL IN IS AN ILLUSION, WITNESS THE PERMANENT ENTRENCHMENT OF ARMED FORCES. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE MILITARY PENETRATING THE LIVES OF MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE, FORMING A WORLD AND A SYSTEM OF VALUES ALL ITS OWN, WE SHOULD BECOME AWARE OF THE REPERCUSSIONS THIS HAS ON THE HOMOSEXUAL, WHOSE CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

THE RECORD OF THE MILITARY'S TREATMENT OF THE HOMOSEXUAL HAS VARIED FROM TIME TO TIME - FROM A TRADITION OF COURT MARTIAL FOR HAVING SUCH TENDENCIES, IN THE EARLY PART OF WORLD WAR II, TO A BRIEF PERIOD OF LENIENCY IN 1943-44 WHEN THE ARMY QUIETLY GAVE THEM A BLUE DISCHARGE WHICH WAS NEITHER HONORABLE NOR DISHONORABLE. IN JULY, 1947, THE ARMY AND NAVY MADE AN ABRUPT CHANGE AND BEGAN GIVING AN "UNDESIRABLE" DISCHARGE, MAKING EXCEPTIONS ONLY OF MEN HAVING OUTSTANDING COMBAT RECORDS. THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF HOMOSEXUAL ACTS RECEIVED A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE, OF COURSE. (1)

IN LINE WITH THIS NEW, HARSH POLICY, A SYSTEM OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCREENING HAS BEEN DEVISED, COVERING:

1. EFFEMINATE LOOKS OR BEHAVIOR (MASCULINE IN THE CASE OF WOMEN).
2. RECOGNITION OF KEY WORDS FROM THE HOMOSEXUAL VOCABULARY.
3. URIGENARY HORMONE-SECRETION TEST TO SHOW IF ANY HIGHER DEGREE OF ESTROGENS (F) THAN ANDROGENS (M) ARE PRESENT. THIS WAS CARRIED OUT ONLY ON CERTAIN INDUCTEES BECAUSE OF THE HIGH EXPENSE. (2)

AN EXAMPLE OF THE MILITARY PSYCHOLOGICAL QUESTIONNAIRE MAY BE SEEN IN CURRENT ROTC TESTS FOR CAMPUS INDUCTEES. THE QUESTIONS ARE MAINLY OF THE EITHER-OR TYPE, TO BE CHOSEN AMONG EXTREME ALTERNATIVES, LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

1. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE:
   A. CHICKEN-HEARTED, OR B. BRUTAL.
2. WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER BE?
   A. A FLORIST, OR B. HOG BUTCHER.

BY THEMSELVES, ISOLATED ANSWERS MAY BE MEANINGLESS. IN THE TOTAL CONTEXT A COMPOSITE PICTURE MAY BE REVEALING INDEED. ONE MAY GUESS AT THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF INTERPRETATION BY CONSIDERATIONS OF MOTIVATIONS OR MASKING ON THE PART OF AN INDUCTEE. A CONSISTANT SCORE ON THE SIDE OF "TOUGH-MINDED" ANSWERS MAY REVEAL THE OVER-COMPENSATING OR DELIBERATELY CONCEALING EFFORTS OF A HOMOSEXUAL, AS WELL AS THE "GENUINE HE-MAN". INCONSISTENCIES IN THE SCORES, ONE WOULD THINK, COULD BE SUBJECT TO A VARIETY OF MEANINGS IN RELATION TO THE VERY NATURE OF THESE TESTS.

NEXT TO BE CONSIDERED ARE THE VERBAL INTERVIEWS, BASED ON RESPONSE TO KEY WORDS THAT MAY BE HOMOSEXUAL (OR OTHERWISE SUSPECT) IN THEIR SPECIAL MEANINGS. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY "HOMOSEXUAL-WISE" NORMALS, OR SOCIOLOGICALLY-WISE ADULTS MAY ALSO GIVE RECOGNITION RESPONSES ON THIS SCORE. AMONG THE HOMOPHILES, THE YOUNG, NAIVE, OR HONEST-IN-FACE WILL BE TRAPPED. THE HARDENED "PERVERSIVE OF THE WORST SORT" MIGHT PASS UNSCATHED.

FINALLY, THE MATTER OF OFFICIAL SNOOPING TO DISCERN HOMOSEXUAL OR POLITICAL "TENDENCIES" DESERVES THOROUGH ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY WHEN GEARED TO OBSERVING GESTURES AND VOCABULARY. ONE SUCH MILITARY PAMPHLET ON SPOTTING A SUSPECT CAME TO PUBLIC NOTICE IN 1955, AND AROUSED SUCH PROTEST IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ("GUILT BY RHETORIC") THAT IT WAS PROMPTLY WITHDRAWN AS "UNFIT FOR MILITARY USE".(3)

TRUE INDEED THAT THE ARMED FORCES NEED DISCIPLINE AND UNITY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. BUT WE MUST CONSIDER VIOLATIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW IN ACTUAL MILITARY PRACTICE.

"NOR HAVE WE EVER BEFORE MADE A PRACTICE OF PUNISHING MEN WHO HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG ONLY BECAUSE WE FEAR THEY MAY DO SOMETHING WRONG.

"IT WILL BE NOTED THAT AT LEAST FIVE RIGHTS LONG CONSIDERED AS INALIENABLE FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BECOME INOPERATIVE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (AND THE ARMED FORCES). THEY INCLUDE:

1. THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE UNTIL GUILT IS PROVED.
2. THE DOCTRINE THAT GUILT IS PERSONAL AND CANNOT BE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONSHIP OR ASSOCIATION.
3. THE RIGHT OF THE ACCUSED TO BE INFORMED OF THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST HIM IN ORDER TO PREPARE HIS DEFENSE.
4. THE RIGHT OF THE ACCUSED TO CONFRONT AND CROSS-EXAMINE HIS ACCUSERS.
5. IMMUNITY AGAINST BEING TRIED A SECOND TIME FOR A CHARGE ON WHICH AQUITTAL HAS BEEN WON."(4)

THE REASONS GIVEN FOR SUCH DISCRIMINATION HAVE BEEN MANY:

1. THAT HOMOSEXUALS MAKE POOR SOLDIERS; WOULD COMPRISE AN UNDESIRABLE ELEMENT IN THE ARMY.

YET FACTS GLEANED FROM ARMY CASE HISTORIES HAVE SHOWN THAT "THEY TOPPED THE AVERAGE SOLDIER IN IQ, EDUCATION AND RATING. TEN PERCENT WERE COLLEGE GRADUATES AND OVER 50% FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL. AS A WHOLE, THE MEN WERE LAW-ABIDING, HARD-WORKING, AND MANY TRIED TO BE GOOD SOLDIERS."(5)

2. THAT A "HOMOSEXUALLY INFILTRATED" ARMY WOULD BE EFFEMINATE OR INEFFECTUAL.

ON THE CONTRARY, GRECIAN AND SAMURAI MILITARY ORDERS REACHED UNPRECEDENTED HEIGHTS OF HEROISM UNDER A SYSTEM OF OFFICIALLY-SANCTIONED FRIENDSHIPS.

3. THAT HOMOSEXUALS ARE POOR SECURITY RISKS SINCE THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO BLACKMAIL BY FOREIGN AGENTS.

HOWEVER, "IF ONE HOMOSEXUAL CONTACT WAS ENOUGH FOR SUCH A BLACKMAIL THREAT, THEN (ACCORDING TO KINSEY'S FIGURES) 37% OF ALL SELECTIVE SERVICEMEN, CIVIL SERVANTS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WOULD BE SECURITY RISKS FOR THAT REASON.

"MOREOVER, KINSEY STATES 'MANY OF THE SOCIALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY SIGNIFICANT PERSONS IN OUR HISTORIES, SUCCESSFUL SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS, PHYSICIANS, PERSONS HIGH IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES HAVE SOCIALLY TABOO ITEMS IN THEIR SEXUAL HISTORIES, AND AMONG THEM THEY HAVE ACCEPTED NEARLY THE WHOLE RANGE OF SO-CALLED SEXUAL ABNORMALITIES.'"(6)

SEEING THAT GOVERNMENTAL TREATMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS IN UNIFORM IS IN MANY RESPECTS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND INHUMANE, LET US SUGGEST STEPS TO ALLEVIATE THIS EVIL:

1. THAT THE PRACTICE OF "GUILT BY STATUS OR TENDENCY" BE HALTED AND PROSECUTION BE KEPT TO THE RIGHTFUL DOMAIN OF CRIMES-BY-ACTION.

2. INNAUGURATE A THOROUGH RESEARCH AS TO HOW MUCH RISK OR DETRIMENT A HOMOSEXUAL ACTUALLY IS (IF AT ALL) TO POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT OR THE ARMED FORCES.

3. IF REMOVAL OF HOMOSEXUALS FROM THE SERVICES IS NECESSARY, RESTORE THE 1943-44 ACT OF BLUE DISCHARGES AND HALT THE PRACTICE OF GIVING PERMANENT DISHONORABLE RECORDS TO INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN.

4. RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS FROM ALL THE LAWS OF THE LAND. IT HAS BEEN DONE IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, DENMARK AND SWEDEN, AND THE LATTER HAVE SURVIVED AS MODEL DEMOCRACIES.

SINCE MOST HOMOSEXUALS ARE LOYAL, FAITHFUL AMERICAN CITIZENS, GRANT THEM ALL THE RIGHTS AND DECENCIES DUE A FIRST CLASS CITIZENSHIP.

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"TO ELIMINATE ALL DISSENT WOULD MAKE ONE HALF THE WORLD FOOLS, AND THE OTHER HALF HYPOCRITES."

THOMAS JEFFERSON

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAN FRANCISCO AREA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 - BUSINESS MEETING AT 2174 CALIFORNIA ST., (BASEMENT APARTMENT) 8 P.M.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 - SPAGHETTI FEED. THE SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR'S DINNER INSPIRED THIS REPEAT PERFORMANCE. OPEN TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE DOB, MALE OR FEMALE. AT 7 P.M., 3927 ARMY ST. PLEASE PHONE RESERVATIONS TO YUKON 2-9290 OR TO THE SOCIAL CHAIRMAN BY THURSDAY, JUNE 18.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 - GAB 'N JAVA, 655 JOOST AVE., 8 P.M. FOR WOMEN ONLY

SUNDAY, JULY 23 - ANNUAL DOB PICNIC. RESERVE THIS DATE. DETAILS LATER.

NEW YORK AREA

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 - 3 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING, 1144 BROADWAY, ROOM 304
9 P.M., "SPRING FLING" PARTY, FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 - JOINT PICNIC WITH MATTACHINE SOCIETY ON FIRE ISLAND.

LOS ANGELES AREA

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 - BEACH PARTY. FOR DETAILS CONTACT DOB AT P. O. BOX 3561, LONG BEACH, CALIF.

Lesbiana . . .

104 ODD GIRL, BY ARTEMIS SMITH. BEACON BOOKS, 1959.

ANOTHER PAPERBACK NOVEL ON THE ADJUSTMENT OF YOUTHFUL WOMEN TO LESBIANISM, BETTER HANDLED THAN SOME. ANNE, 20 YEAR OLD HEROINE, HAS FUTILE LOVE FOR NEARLY NORMAL BETH. ANNE DECIDES BETH IS HOPELESS PURSUIT AND TURNS TO GAY CLUBS FOR COMPANIONSHIP. SHE MEETS ONE OF EACH OF THE MORE TYPICAL TYPES, HEARTY, OPEN FRIENDLY SKIPPY, THEN ESTHER WHO IS MOROSE AND UNADJUSTED, AND FINALLY MEETS THE CALM, SETTLED MATURE PRU JOHNSON. PRU HAS LIVED ALONE FOR A YEAR. SHE FALLS IN LOVE WITH ANNE AND HELPS HER TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS BEHIND THE ACTIONS OF EACH OF THE OTHER GIRLS IN STORY AND GRADUALLY ANNE FALLS FOR PRU. IT IS PASSABLY WELL WRITTEN FOR A PAPERBACK AND HAS AN ENTIRELY HAPPY ENDING FOR A CHANGE. A MUST BOOK FOR EVERYONE, EVEN THE DIE-HARDS WHO CAN'T STAND ANY GAY BOOKS WILL GO FOR THIS ONE.

105 COLLECTED LYRICS BY EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY. HARPER AND BROS. PUBLICATIONS, 1943.

A COLLECTION OF THE SURPASSINGLY BEAUTIFUL LYRICS BY PERHAPS THE GREATEST POETESS OF OUR TIMES. CERTAIN OF THE SELECTIONS ARE PRECEPTIVELY OF "OUR WORLD". ALL IN ALL, THESE POEMS ARE A DELIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE THAT ONE SHOULD NOT MISS.

106 CHRIS BY RANDY SALEM. BEACON BOOKS, 1959.

CHRIS, WRITER OF SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES ON MARINE LIFE, LIVES WITH BEAUTIFUL SELF-CENTERED DIZZ. FRUSTRATED BY DIZZ'S INABILITY TO PHYSICALLY RESPOND TO HER LOVE-MAKING, CHRIS SEEKS SOLACE IN ONE-NIGHT STANDS WITH OTHERS, AMOUNG THEM WARM, GENEROUS CAROL. BETWEEN CHRIS AND CAROL THERE IS A COMPLETE RAPPORT. PROMISING TO LEAVE THE SELFISH DIZZ FOR CAROL, CHRIS SUCCUMBS TO THE FORMER'S PLEADING TO STAY WITH HER ONLY TO HAVE DIZZ, AS USUAL, COMPLETELY FAIL HER. IN ORDER TO SAVE HER CAREER AND SANITY, CHRIS FINDS THE COURAGE TO WALK OUT ON DIZZ. ENTIRELY SYMPATHETIC AND THE BEST QUALITY BEACON HAS YET PRODUCED. NO TACKED ON CENSORS ENDING HERE.

A PHILOSOPHER'S POINT OF VIEW

(Continued from Page 13)

usually appeal to the homosexual and wondered if this was because the homosexual by nature is sensitive or becomes so as result of the social attitude.

NOTHING WRONG WITH HOMOSEXUALITY

"I can't honestly see where there is anything wrong with homosexuality," the philospher stated. We are splitting hairs in arguing over what is disease or what is variation.

"Those who make so much fuss would seem to me in doubt of their own masculinity or femininity," Mr. Watts said. An individual is threatened by homosexuality only if the role he is trying to play is against his own nature."

"Our culture idealizes the sterotypes of the 100% male and the 100% female" and at the same time engenders animosity toward them. Mr. Watts deplored a society of 100 percenters. We need something in common, an area where we feel the same for something of each is necessary for communication."

Mr. Watts concluded his talk with the warning that where strong violent opposition to homosexuality is found, "Watch out! This is the area in which the person is most afraid of himself."

- Del Martin

Dr. Vera H. Plunkett
Chiropractor
465 geary street ORdway 3-3243

READERS RESPOND

"I HAVE NOTICED A NUMBER OF LETTERS FROM THOSE WHO ARE STUCK IN SMALL TOWNS AND HAMLETS, ASKING FOR NAMES OF MEMBERS CLOSE BY. I HAVE ALSO SEEN THE EDITORIAL REPLIES: THAT THIS IS NOT AN ORGANIZATION FOR ACQUAINTANCESHIP PURPOSES.

"I THINK YOUR MOTIVES ARE FINE, BUT I DO NOT QUITE GO ALONG WITH THEM. YOU SEE, I TOO, AM STUCK IN A SMALL TOWN, WANT DESPERATELY TO MEET MY OWN KIND BUT CANNOT. CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW FRUSTRATING IT IS TO READ A PUBLISHED LETTER IN THE LADDER, WRITTEN BY SOMEONE ONLY 10 MILES AWAY, WHO BEGS YOU TO GIVE THEM NAMES OF MEMBERS SURROUNDING THEM - AND I READ IT?

"WHY NOT, FOR ALL INTERESTS CONCERNED - I.E., FINANCIALLY FOR DOB AND SOCIALLY FOR ALL OTHERS - WHY NOT INCLUDE A PAID CLASSIFIED SECTION? LIKE SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE HAS? THIS WOULD ENABLE MANY OF US TO GET SOMETHING FROM DOB AND IT WOULD ALSO ENLARGE YOUR TREASURY."

J.K., PENNSYLVANIA

CERTAINLY WE ARE SYMPATHETIC WITH THE PROBLEM STATED HERE, BUT WE MUST AGAIN REITERATE THAT WE ARE HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. PERHAPS IT MAY NOT BE ILLEGAL TO EXCHANGE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF INTERESTED PARTIES PER SE, BUT IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL IF DONE FOR IMMORAL PURPOSES. WHAT GUARANTEE DO WE HAVE THAT THERE IS NO ILLEGAL OR IMMORAL INTENT ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO CORRESPOND WITH OTHER READERS? UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS IN OUR OFFICE WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT MOTIVES ARE NOT ALWAYS "HEARTS AND FLOWERS". WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR READERS AND TO OUR MEMBERS. OUR HANDS-OFF POLICY IS A PROTECTION TO THEM. - ED.

"HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT FINDING THE GAY SPOTS IN A STRANGE CITY? I HAVE THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM OF ALLENTOWN, PA. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THERE. I'VE SEEN SEVERAL LETTERS IN ONE SIGNED FROM ALLENTOWN. I KNOW NO ONE THERE THAT OFF-HAND I'D CARE TO GO 'EXCURSIONING' WITH, HOPING TO CHANCE ON THE RIGHT PLACES."

M.M., MASSACHUSETTS

SORRY, WE HAVE NO SUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE. AND REGARDLESS WE WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO RECOMMEND ANY "GAY BAR". YOURS IS A FAMILIAR AND SYMPATHETIC PROBLEM, BUT AGAIN WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO HELP. WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL LAWS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS THEY PERTAIN TO "GAY BARS", BUT WE DO KNOW THAT IN CALIFORNIA THOSE FREQUENTING SUCH PLACES DO TAKE "A CALCULATED RISK" OF BEING PICKED UP ON ONE CHARGE OR ANOTHER. THERE ARE MANY INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT CONSTITUTE LEWD OR IMMORAL BEHAVIOR. HOMOSEXUALS HAVE A TENDENCY TO INTERPRET THE TERMS MORE BROADLY AND LOOSELY THAN DO LAW ENFORCEMENT OF-

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FICERS. PERHAPS IF HOMOSEXUALS WERE TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE AND DO A LITTLE "POLICING" ON THEIR OWN, "GAY BARS" MIGHT BECOME LESS HAZARDOUS AS MEETING PLACES. - ED.

* * * * *

"EACH MONTH WHEN THE LADDER ARRIVES I SIMPLY DROP EVERYTHING ELSE AND READ IT FROM COVER TO COVER. TWO FEATURES I LIKE BEST ARE 'READERS RESPOND' AND 'LESBIANA'. THE COVER ON THE MARCH ISSUE WAS SUPERB!"

G.G., PENNSYLVANIA

* * * * *

"JODY SHOTWELL'S STORY IN THE APRIL ISSUE IS EXCELLENT. IT IS AN UNUSUAL SIDE OF THE LESBIAN PICTURE AND THEREFORE A WELCOME CHANGE. I LAUGHED OUT LOUD AT B.S. OF SAN LEANDRO'S REMARK ABOUT LESBIAN COUPLES LIVING ALONE TOGETHER IN 'EGOISM A DEUX'. WHAT AN ACCURATE LOW BLOW THAT ONE IS."

B.G., KANSAS

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